

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 13 and 14 are amended.

In the office action, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,313,567 to Sturman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an "explosion protection system for protecting an asset from an explosion force". Weight must be given to this feature in the preamble because other portions of the claim make reference to this feature and therefore breath life into this feature. In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Sturman does not disclose an explosion blast protection system of any form. This same argument applies to method claim 6.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Sturman does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1-14 and, therefore, rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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